

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figure 1-4. These sheets, which includes Figures 1-4, replaces the current sheets including Figures 1-4. In each of Figures 1-4, the arrowheads objected to by the Examiner have either been replaced with lines or altered to more better point to the elements identified in the specification. In particular the arrowheads associated with reference numerals 1, 31, 10b, and 10d have been removed. The arrowheads associated with reference numeral 15 has been lengthened.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed February 26, 2007. Claim 14 has been previously cancelled and claim 1 is amended. Claims 1-13 remain pending in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. The remarks or lack of remarks are not to be construed as an admission regarding the Examiner's construction or interpretation of the cited art. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Drawings

Replacement sheets are submitted herewith to overcome the objections of the Examiner. More particularly, the arrowheads have either been deleted or lengthened to better point at the intended elements as discussed in the Amendments to the Drawings section of this response.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,530,479 (*Waldron*) in view of Applicant's Admitted prior Art (AAPA). Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Waldron* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,087,921 (*Kurtz*). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Waldron* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,152 (*Glabe*).

Applicant's traverse the Examiner's rejections for obviousness at least on the grounds that the references – either individually or in combination – fail to teach or suggest each and every element of the rejected claims.

Embodiments of the invention relate to a shielding plate for a component such as an optical transceiver. Because the component can operate at high frequencies, the electromagnetic waves emitted can be disruptive, particularly when the emissions are into the surroundings rather than inside a metallic structure. Embodiments of the invention advantageously reduce emissions of disruptive electromagnetic waves.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the second region of the shielding plate body includes a discontinuity (see e.g., the discontinuity associated with the optical port 5 in the specification). As noted in the specification, electromagnetic waves emitted thorough the discontinuity can be disruptive and are typically undesirable.

However, the elongated opening formed in the first region of the shielding plate body reduces the emissions through the discontinuity of the second region. More specifically, claim 1 further clarifies that the elongated opening is located in the first region, which is to be disposed inside a metallic structure. Claim 1 then requires that the emissions through the elongated opening reduce the emissions through the discontinuity.

Waldron, in contrast, fails to teach or suggest many of the required aspects of claim 1. For example, claim 1 requires that the shielding plate assembly have a first region to be disposed inside a metallic structure and a second region to be inserted through a cutout of the metallic structure. Claim 1 further requires that the at least one elongated opening be in the first region. *Waldron* fails to teach or suggest these requirements. There is no teaching in *Waldron* that the waveguide arials have a first region to be disposed inside a metallic structure and a second region to be inserted through a cutout of the metallic structure.

Further, claim 1 requires the second region to include a discontinuity. As noted in the specification, emissions through the discontinuity are often disruptive. The at least one elongated opening in claim 1 is therefore located such that emissions are reduced at the discontinuity. The parallel sided slot taught by *Waldron*, however, does

not teach or suggest locating the slot to reduce emissions at a discontinuity of the shielding plate body. In fact, *Waldron* fails to teach or suggest the discontinuity in a second region. *Waldron* discloses a waveguide aerial, but there is no teaching of locating elongated openings that are located in a first region such that they reduce emissions at a discontinuity in a second region of the shielding plate body as required by claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. The dependent claims 3-5 and 8-13 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Because claim 1 is patentable, the claims rejected over *Waldron* in view *Kurtz* (claims 2 and 6) and over *Waldron* in view of *Glabe* (claim 7) are also patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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